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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Occupation of Bema Fort, WARSAW, Poland

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*FCD
301*

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT October 1946 to January 1949

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 12 September 1949

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REFERENCES

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NO CHANGE in CLASS.

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This document is hereby regarded to
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letter of 18 October 1970 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2003

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1. The 3,300 foot square Bema Fort (R 55/P 98) is located at the northwestern city limits of WARSAW, three miles west of the railroad bridge crossing the VISLA River. The area was covered by large stone hangars and quartering buildings.
2. The Bema Fort, in January 1949, was occupied by a construction battalion, an air signal unit and an artillery unit.
 - a. The air signal unit was composed of young, well disciplined Polish soldiers who were on active service. They wore gray uniforms. The unit had radio-equipped passenger cars. The unit left the fort for practices but routine radio training was given in the fort.
 - b. (1) The construction battalion was the II^d Bn of the airfield construction staff stationed in WARSAW. According to Polish soldiers, the 1st Bn of this staff was stationed in DANZIG (4 55/Y 42) while the IInd Bn had been dissolved in WARSAW in late 1947.
 - (2) The II^d Bn had the following tactical symbol: white/black. It had a strength of six hundred to seven hundred men and was equipped with an unknown number of "SIS" trucks and eight tractors. It was assigned to construction work at the BEMEROWO (R 53/P 99) airfield and also had military training. The soldiers (brown uniforms), most of whom were from Upper Silesia, were on active service. The youngest belonged to the 1926 class. One of the officers was Capt. SIGHIEL OWICZ, an engineer in charge of construction work. He had previously commanded the construction of the LODZ (4 52/0 93) airfield.

Comment: The reported location and occupation of the Bema Fort was confirmed by various Poles.

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